

CONSUMER PROTECTION



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News

August 2001 Edition

Dear Wisconsin Children's Safety Advocates:

In July 2001, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued **fourteen (14) recalls relating to products affecting children and one (1) safety advisory**. Attached is a summary of the releases identifying the product, problem and what should be done with the recalled product.

We have found that not all of the recalls are picked up by the news media as they occur. This monthly summary will give you the opportunity to review all of the children's product safety recalls for the past month.

If you are interested in a complete text of the recall, double click on the hyperlink at the end of the recall description. This will take you to the CPSC website and the actual recall notice. If you have other product safety questions you may call our toll free number at **(800) 422-7128 and then press "zero" (0) to speak with Product Safety**. You should leave your name, your organization's name and a phone number.

Following is a listing of the 15 "KIDS" recalls & advisories by title and identification number:

- ❖ Chicco USA Inc. is recalling Preschool Toys. #01-182
- ❖ Raymond Geddes & Co. Inc. is recalling Velcro Wallets. #01-190
- ❖ DSI Toys, Inc. is recalling Toy Kittens. #01-191
- ❖ Peg Perego USA is recalling High Chairs. #01-192
- ❖ Advantage Publishers Group is recalling Educational. #01-193
- ❖ Imperial Toy Corp is recalling Toy Feeding Sets. #01-194
- ❖ Soft Bedding a Factor in Playpen Deaths – Campaign Launched to Alert Caregivers. #01-196
- ❖ JT USA Inc. is recalling Proteus Paint Ball Masks. #01-197
- ❖ Specialized Bicycles, Inc. is recalling Specialized bicycles. #01-200
- ❖ SunTome Trading Corp. is recalling Baby Walkers. #01-203
- ❖ Inca Imports is recalling Stuffed Bears. #01-205
- ❖ Basic Comfort Inc. is recalling Infant Seat Pads. #01-206
- ❖ Burger King and Alcone are recalling Two Kids Meal Toys. #01-209
- ❖ Fisher-Price is recalling Portable Bassinets. #01-210
- ❖ Safety 1st is recalling Cabinet & Drawer Spring Latches. #01-211
- ❖ Acetrike Bicycle Co. is recalling Children's Bicycles. #01-212

We hope you find this service of value and that it assists you to:

"KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE!"

KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

Release Number: 01-182 Chicco USA Inc., of Bound Brook, N.J., is voluntarily recalling about 6,000 Build-A-Ball preschool toys. The Build-A-Ball toy consists of five multi-colored and various-sized plastic balls that can be taken apart to be stacked on top of each other or placed inside each other. The five balls in the toy set range in size from about 2-inches to 4-inches in diameter. One-half of the balls are white, green, blue, red or yellow, and the other half is clear. "chicco" is written inside the balls. The balls are packaged in a box labeled "chicco," "Build-a-Ball," "Cod. 66167," and "Made in China." The packaging also indicated the toy is for children ages 1-3 years or 1-4 years. The text on the packaging is written in 11 languages.

Amazon.com, Army & Air Force Exchanges and other toy stores nationwide sold these toys from January 1999 through April 2001 for about \$6.

Problem: Some of the larger-sized ball halves can become stuck on a young child's face, covering the nose and mouth, and causing suffocation.

What to do: Parents and caregivers should take these balls away from young children immediately and return the toys to the store where purchased for a refund. For more information, consumers should call Chicco USA Inc., toll-free at (866) 242-0643 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the company's web site www.chiccousa.com.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01182.html>

Release Number: 01-190 Raymond Geddes & Co. Inc., of Baltimore, Md., is voluntarily recalling about 55,000 children's Velcro wallets. The wallets are 3.5 by 5 inches when closed and have a Velcro closing flap. They come in various solid colors on the outside of the wallet and multiple colors on the inside. They have black trim around the edges and between the pockets. The wallet contains five pockets, one of which contains a zipper. The backing on the largest pocket is yellow. Each wallet contains a tag that states "MADE IN CHINA." Toy stores nationwide

sold these wallets from August 1998 through April 2001 for about \$1.

Problem: The zipper pull in the wallet contains lead, which can present a risk of lead poisoning to young children.

What to do: Consumers should immediately take these wallets away from children, and return the wallets to the store where purchased for a refund. For more information, call Raymond Geddes & Co. at (800) 533-6273 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's web site at www.raymondgeddes.com. Consumers also can contact the firm by email at consumeraffairs@raymondgeddes.com.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01190.html>

Release Number: 01-191 DSI Toys, Inc., of Houston, Texas, is voluntarily recalling about 238,000 stuffed toy kittens. The Kitty Kitty Kittens are about 12-inches long. The kitten toys make a purring noise when they are petted on the head. They come in six styles: Buttons, Tiger, Calico, Mittens, Tawny and Fluffy. The kitten's name and item number, "16400," are printed on a hangtag attached to its ear. A tag attached to the toy reads, "DSI TOYS, INC." and "MADE IN CHINA." The water in the kitten toy is intended to make it feel more lifelike. Discount, specialty, and toy stores nationwide sold the kitten toys from September 2000 through May 2001 for between \$10 and \$13.

Problem: These toys contain contaminated water that, if contacted, could cause illness to children.

What to do: Parents and caregivers should take these kitten toys away from children immediately, and call DSI Toys to receive a free replacement toy. For more information, call DSI Toys at (800) 628-8882 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or go to the firm's web site www.dsitoys.com.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01191.html>

Release Number: 01-192 Peg Perego USA Inc., of Ft. Wayne, Ind., is voluntarily recalling about 325,000 high chairs. The recalled high chairs have seats that can be raised or lowered, and a lever on the back of the chair that allows the seat to be tilted back. The recalled chairs are the "Prima Pappa," "Roller," and "Martinelli Pappa and Nanna." The model names are located on the footrest or the seat back. A sticker on the brace connecting the front leg to the back leg reads in part, "Peg-Perego" and "Italy." Chain stores and independent retailers, including Babies "R" Us, Right Start, and Burlington Coat Factory, sold these high chairs from June 1996 through October 1999 for about \$180. High chairs with 9-inch armrests are not included in this recall.

Problem: When the seat is reclined, the high chairs have a space between the armrest and backrest in which a child's head or arm can become entrapped. This can pose a risk of suffocation or injury to the heads or arms of young children.

What to do: Consumers should stop using the high chairs immediately. Consumers should call Peg Perego toll-free at (877) 737-3464 anytime or log on to the company's website at www.perego.com to receive free replacement armrests that will eliminate the entrapment hazard. Consumers should not return the high chair to the store where purchased.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01192.html>

Release Number: 01-193 Advantage Publishers Group, of San Diego, Calif., is voluntarily recalling to replace components in about 160,000 "Let's Start™ Numbers" and "Optical Illusions Lab" educational kits. The "Let's Start™" kit has a blue and red cover with a dog on the front, and contains an interactive book that uses exercises and activities to introduce children to numbers. The clear acetate stencil sheet is part of a packet of activity pieces, including a cleaning sponge, counting coins, a magic pen, and a counting frame. On the back of the kit, it reads in part, "This product is suitable for use only by children over 4 years of age." The "Optical Illusions" kit has a multi-colored cover with various geometric shapes, and reads in part, "Only for use by children over 8 years of age and under adult supervision." The black pen is included with an activity book and various shapes and images

used to perform optical experiments. Retail stores, national book chains, wholesalers and distributors, and membership warehouse clubs nationwide sold the educational kits from February 1999 through May 2001 for between \$13 and \$20. All other components of both kits are not involved in this recall and should not be discarded.

Problem: The red painted numbers on the acetate stencil sheet included in the "Let's Start™" kit contain lead; and the gold paint bearing the words "Kasy's Extrafine" on the black pen included in the "Optical Illusions" kit has lead.

What to do: Consumers should immediately remove the stencil sheets and pens from the activity kits and discard them. Customers should call Advantage Publishers Group toll-free at (866) 748-3731 any time to order a replacement piece. Consumers also can obtain information by going to the company's website at

www.advantagebooksonline.com.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01193.html>

Release Number: 01-194 Imperial Toy Corp., of Los Angeles, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 100,000 toy feeding sets. The plastic toy feeding set includes a baby bottle, plastic dish, strainer, spoon, juicer, and, in some sets, a funnel. The plastic sets were sold in various colors including blue, yellow, pink and purple. The packaging reads, "CUDDLES FEEDING SET" or "CUDDLES MEAL TIME." The packaging also reads, Imperial," and "NO. 8327." Ben Franklin, Revco and other discount stores nationwide sold the toys from October 1995 through May 2001 for about \$2.

Problem: The nipple on the toy baby bottle included in these sets could come off, posing a serious choking hazard to small children.

What to do: Consumers should take these recalled toys away from young children immediately, and return the toy set to the store where purchased for a refund. For more information about this recall, consumers should call Imperial Toy Corp, at (800) 543-6551 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday or write to the company at 2060 E. 7th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90021.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01194.html>

Release Number: 01-196 The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) released a report on deaths in playpens. Since 1988, CPSC has reports of more than 200 babies who died while in playpens. In almost 100 of these deaths, soft bedding or improper or extra mattresses were present in the playpen and the babies died of suffocation or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). More than 70 percent of these deaths were to babies less than 12 months old. Twenty-six of the playpen deaths occurred in a daycare setting.

Over the years, playpens, portable cribs and play yards have evolved into virtually identical products. Parents use playpens today as places for babies to both sleep and play. To educate caregivers, CPSC and Mattel, Inc. are launching a "Sleep Safe, Play Safe" campaign to address the two greatest hazards revealed by the study: 1) adding soft bedding and 2) adding extra mattresses or cushions.

For years, CPSC has warned about the dangers of soft bedding such as quilts, comforters and pillows in cribs. Soft bedding can become molded around an infant's face and cause suffocation. As many as one-third of baby deaths attributed to SIDS, in fact, may be suffocation in soft bedding.

The findings emphasize the need for caregivers to be aware that the same safe sleeping guidelines that they follow for their babies' cribs should be followed in these playpens. That means placing baby on his back on a firm, flat mattress and not adding extra mattresses or any soft bedding, such as pillows, quilts, or comforters.

CPSC, in partnership with Mattel, is kicking off a "Sleep Safe, Play Safe" campaign to educate parents and caregivers about the dangers associated with soft bedding and extra mattresses or cushions in playpens.

Other hazards identified in the study were playpens that were in poor condition, had broken or protruding hardware or had side rails that collapsed creating an entrapment hazard.

To prevent deaths or injuries to children in playpens, parents and caregivers should take these precautions:

- Before using a playpen, make sure it has not been recalled. Contact CPSC at 1-800-638-2772 or check the recalls section of CPSC's web site.

- Always put a baby down to sleep on his back in a playpen or crib with no soft bedding, such as quilts, comforters and pillows. This can help reduce the risk of SIDS and prevent suffocation.
- Use only the mattress provided by the manufacturer. Do not add additional mattresses in playpens. Children can suffocate in the spaces formed between mattresses or from ill-fitting mattresses.
- Check that the playpen is in good shape. Using a modified or improperly repaired unit can create hazards.
- Make sure the top rails of the units lock into place automatically. More than 1 million older playpens with top rails that had to be manually rotated into a locked position have been recalled.
- Do not use playpens with catch points, such as protruding hardware. More than 9 million older units with protruding hardware have been recalled.
- If using a mesh-sided playpen, make sure the mesh is less than 1/4 inch in size and that it is attached securely. This will help prevent strangulation.

For more information on playpen safety, call CPSC at (800) 638-2772.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01196.html>

Release Number: 01-197 JT USA Inc., of Chula Vista, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 4,000 Proteus masks used for protection during paint ball combat. The Proteus mask is made up of a Spectra goggle, visor and facemask, which includes ear covers and a strap. Model number 50085090201 includes a cooling fan. Model number 50105090201 does not include a fan. The model numbers are written on the packaging. Both masks are gray with clear, plastic ear covers. Only masks with clear ear covers are part of the recall. Paint ball equipment stores sold these masks nationwide from March 2001 through May 2001 for between \$110 and \$150.

Problem: The plastic facemask could crack around the ear cover when hit by a paint ball. This could allow the facemask to come off, exposing consumers to eye injuries.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these masks immediately, and return them to JT USA for a free replacement mask. For more information

and shipping instructions, call JT USA at (800) 587-2246 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, or write to The Recall Dept., JTA USA Inc., 515 Main St., Chula Vista, CA 91911. Consumers also can go to the firm's web site at www.jtusa.com.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01197.html>

Release Number: 01-200 Specialized Bicycles Hemi 12-inch Children's Bicycles - Specialized Bicycles, Inc., of Morgan Hill, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 3,500 Specialized-brand bicycles. These Hemi 12-inch boys and girls model bicycles were sold for the 2001 model year only. The model names are the 2001 Hemi Pro 12-inch boys team red and the 2001 Hemi Fastgirl 12-inch girls pink bikes. "Specialized" and the model name are written on the bicycles. Specialized dealers sold the bicycles nationwide from July 2000 through May 2001 for between \$110 to \$130.

Problem: The frame of the bicycle can break during use causing the rider to lose control of the bicycle, fall and suffer serious injuries.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these bicycles immediately, and return them to the nearest Specialized dealer for a refund. To determine if the bicycle is part of this recall and for more information, call Specialized Bicycles Inc. at (800) 214-1468 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01200.html>

Release Number: 01-203 SunTome Trading Corp., of Los Angeles, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 600 baby walkers. The baby walker is model number ST-108ST, which is written on the box. "Q BABY" is written on a label on the front of the walker and "MADE IN TAIWAN" is written on a tag on the back of the seat. They are light and dark blue, pink, green, purple and white. They have one of three types of activity trays: "Finger Power Training" features a phone and steering wheel; "Music & Light" features a side-view mirror and plane toy; and "Train Engine" plays four animal sounds and four songs. The walkers are packaged in a box labeled in part, "BABY HAND'S," and "COMFORTABLE PAD MADE OF TC CLOTH, WITH FRONT AND

BACK GUARD." Independent discount stores located in California, Arizona and Texas sold these baby walkers from January 1998 through July 2001 for between \$18 and \$22.

Problem: The walkers will fit through a standard doorway and are not designed to stop at the edge of a step. Babies using these walkers could be seriously injured or killed if they fall down stairs.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these baby walkers immediately and call the firm for instructions on returning the walkers for a refund and shipping costs. For more information, consumers should call SunTome Trading Corp. at (888) SUNTOME (786-8663) between 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. PT Monday through Friday. This recall came to CPSC's attention as a result of routine import dock surveillance activities in cooperation with the U.S. Customs Service.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01203.html>

Release Number: 01-205 Inca Imports, of Denver, Colo., is voluntarily recalling about 2,600 stuffed bears. The recalled bears come in three sizes: small (8 1/2"), medium (12") and large (17"). The recalled bears have plastic eyes and noses, and red ribbon bows with bells. They are made of alpaca fur. The bears have a small sticker on the back side of the ribbon which reads in part, "Made in Peru." Stores in tourist areas throughout Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas sold the bears from July 1997 through February 2001 for between \$20 to \$50.

Problem: The noses, bells, and eyes of the bears can detach, presenting a choking hazard to young children. The eyes also present a sharp point hazard.

What to do: Consumers should take these stuffed bears away from young children immediately and return them to the store where they were purchased for a full refund. Consumers also can call Inca Imports toll-free at (800) 279-4040 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. MT Monday through Friday or write to Don Donahue, Inca Imports 451 E. 58th Ave, P.O. Box 132, Denver, CO 80216.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01205.html>

Release Number: 01-206 Basic Comfort Inc., of Denver, Colo., is voluntarily recalling about 16,000 infant seat pads. The seat pad was sold under The Baby Sitter brand name. The infant seat pad is designed to restrain a child on a chair in a sitting position. It has a padded back and seat. The seat pad is attached to a chair by Velcro straps attached to the sides of the pad. The front of the seat pad has two straps attached near the top of the pad that go over a child's shoulders and connect to a single crotch strap. The seat pad is a denim blue color with white restraint straps. Department and juvenile products stores nationwide including JC Penney and One Step Ahead sold these infant seat pads from October 1998 through May 2001 for about \$11.

Problem: The seat pad has two shoulder straps that create a v-shaped opening around the head and neck, presenting a strangulation hazard to young children.

What to do: Consumers should stop using the infant pads immediately and contact Basic Comfort at (800) 456-8687 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. MT to receive a replacement. Consumers also can visit the firm's web site at www.basiccomfort.com.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01206.html>

Release Number: 01-209 Burger King Corporation, of Miami, Fla., and Alcone Marketing Group, of Irvine, Calif., are recalling a combined total of 2.6 million "Hourglass Space Sprout" and "Look for Me Bumblebee" toddler toys. The toys were distributed in Burger King® Kids Meals for children under three years old. The "Hourglass Space Sprout" is a multi-colored toy with a green, smiling head; a clear hourglass, filled with beads; and two red balls with yellow spots as arms. The "Look for Me Bumblebee" has a purple base with a green leaf, a yellow head, and three rings that fit over the head. When the recalled toys are shaken the beads inside make a rattle sound. On the back of the toys are the words, "Sassy®," "Burger King™," and "MADE IN CHINA." The packaging says, "Toddler Toys For Kids Under Three Years Old." Burger King® restaurants nationwide distributed the toys inside Kids Meals from January 2001 through July 2001. Alcone Marketing Group imported the toys for Burger King Corporation.

Problem: The toys can break causing small beads or balls to be released, which poses a choking or aspiration hazard to young children.

What to do: Parents should immediately take the toys away from children and call (800) 661-9173 for instructions on returning the toy for a free, replacement toy. Information also is available at Burger King Corporation's web site at www.burgerking.com.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01209.html>

Release Number: 01-210 Fisher-Price, of East Aurora, N.Y., is recalling about 569,000 portable bassinets. The recalled portable bassinet converts to an infant seat, with a vibrating unit and is supported by a white metal folding frame that makes it portable. The bassinet is covered in a blue and white print fabric with stars, swirls and hearts. Fisher-Price is molded into the white plastic sides of the vibrating unit. The portable bassinet was sold under the names Sit & Soothe Portable Bassinet, Soothing Sounds Bassinet and Soothing Sounds Portable Bassinet. "Fisher-Price" and model number 79338, 79334 or 79336 appear on the upper left hand corner of a white nylon label located on the underside of the foot of the bassinet. Only bassinets manufactured before April 2000 are included in this recall. Toy, mass merchandise and discount stores nationwide sold these portable bassinets from November 1997 through March 2001 for about \$50.

Problem: Children and adults can be injured when their fingers are pinched or cut between parts of the folding mechanism.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these portable bassinets immediately and contact Fisher-Price at (800) 285-0324 anytime to order a free repair kit. The repair kit will prevent the frame from folding. Consumers also can visit the firm's web site at www.fisher-price.com

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01210.html>

Release Number: 01-211 Safety 1st of Canton, Mass., is voluntarily recalling about 1.7 million packages of safety latches used to prevent children from opening cabinets and drawers. The latches are made of white plastic with a spring which holds the latch closed. "SAFETY 1 st" is written on the top of the latches. Their packaging

reads, in part, "SAFETY 1ST" and "CABINET & DRAWER SPRING LATCHES." They were sold in a package of three or four latches. The straight ends of the metal springs are uncovered on the recalled latches. The replacement latches have a plastic tab over the short, straight end of the metal spring. The springs are uncovered on the recalled latches (left). The replacement latches have a plastic tab over the spring (right). Toy, hardware and department stores nationwide sold the set of three or four latches from January 1993 through December 1999 for about \$7.

Problem: If the safety latch breaks, a small spring could be released. Young children could choke on the small spring or gain access to a cabinet or drawer where dangerous items are stored.

What to do: Consumers should contact Safety 1st for free replacement latches immediately. For more information, call Safety 1st at (800) 366-1282 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or go to the firm's web site at www.safety1st.com.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01211.html>

Release Number: 01-212 Acetrike Bicycle Co., of Taiwan, is recalling about 38,800 children's sidewalk bicycles. The recall includes bicycles having date codes of April 2000 and earlier. The date code is molded on the bicycles' left rear frame, at the point of attachment of the rear wheel. The model name is written on the bike's frame. The following models are involved:

- "Cool Taz", 12-inch boy's style
- "Sweet Tweety", 12-inch girl's style
- "Mudslinger", 16-inch boy's style
- "Secret Treasures", 16-inch girl's style
- "Rugrats", 16-inch boy's style
- "Best Friends", 16-inch girl's style
- "Space Racer", 12-inch boy's style
- "Fairy Magic", 12-inch girl's style
- "MX1200", 12-inch boy's style
- "High Gear", 12-inch boy's style
- "MX 1800", 16-inch boy's style

Discount department, toy, hardware and sporting goods stores, including Ace Hardware, Ames, Blain Supply, Kay Bee Toys, Meijers, Tru*Serv and Wal-Mart, sold these bikes nationwide from October 1999 through March 2001 for between \$35 and \$70.

Problem: The frames of these bikes can break, causing the riders to fall and suffer injuries.

What to do: Consumers should stop riding these bicycles immediately, and call (888) 366-3828 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or go to the firm's web site at www.huffybikes.com to determine if their bicycle is part of the recall. Consumers with a recalled bicycle will receive a replacement bicycle free of charge.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01212.html>